

BUILD SKILLS

The Wife of Bath's Tale

LITERARY ANALYSIS

A **frame** is a story that encloses, or frames, another story or group of stories. This device creates the structure of a story-within-a-story. In *The Canterbury Tales*, the frame is the characters' pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral. This main story is described in the General Prologue. Within the frame lie the inner tales told by the characters along the journey. Chaucer matches the style and content of the inner tales to the personalities of the storytellers.

- Look for details in "The Wife of Bath's Tale" that remind you of the Wife in the General Prologue.
- Watch for a tale-within-a-tale as you read. "The Wife of Bath's Tale" is an inner story of *The Canterbury Tales*, but it also serves as a frame for another story.

READING STRATEGY

You can sometimes figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word by using **context clues**. These are words and phrases in the surrounding passage that help show what the word means. Common context clues are synonyms, antonyms, and examples that clarify a word's meaning. The diagram below shows an example. Use the blank diagram chart to find context clues for an unfamiliar word.

